



HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM & PROMOTION

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Sensational Summer Savings!

FREE, 50% off or under \$5 budget friendly ways to Staycation in Howard County, Maryland

(Ellicott City, MD) June 19, 2009 – Howard County Tourism & Promotion welcomes the first day of summer 2009 with its newest promotion *Sensational Summer Savings: FREE, 50% off or under \$5 budget friendly ways to Staycation in Howard County, Maryland*. With everyone stretching their travel and entertainment dollars, Howard County Tourism & Promotion has gathered a list of budget friendly ways to “Staycation” in Howard County with FREE or almost free sports, arts, heritage, culinary and other fun events and activities this summer. Howard County, an affluent bedroom community of Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, MD., ranked as the third richest county in the nation (according to the 2006 U.S. Census) with an average household income of more than \$100,000, is a perennial favorite on *Money* magazine's "Top Ten Best Places to Live in America." Those same community amenities that make Howard County such a wonderful place to live, make Howard County a wonderful place to visit or staycation. Howard County has countless activities, events and attractions that are absolutely free or almost free. Even those not trying to pinch a penny will want to take part in these, sure-to-please, *Sensational Summer Savings: FREE, 50% off or under \$5 budget friendly ways to Staycation in Howard County, Maryland*

SPORTS

\$1 tokens Columbia SportsPark Batting Cages

The Columbia SportsPark features six baseball cages: two slow pitched, two medium pitched and two fast pitched, in addition to four softball cages: two fast pitched and two slow pitched. \$1.00 per token or 6 tokens for \$5.00
5453 Harpers Farm Road, Columbia, MD 21044
www.columbiaassociation.com

\$5 Friday Night Cross-Country 5K Run Series

Please join the Howard County Striders for any or all of the 5K XC races this summer! All ages welcome! Start time 6:30pm for all events (06/26 - Centennial High School, 07/03 - Wilde Lake High School, 07/17 - River Hill High School, 07/24 - Reservoir High School, 08/07 - Oakland Mills High School)
<http://www.striders.net/>

One FREE dance lesson from Arthur Murray Dance Studio Columbia

Get started with our Internet Special today!! Dancing is a proven way to have fun, meet new friends, and stay in shape. Please bring the internet Coupon with you on your first appointment for a complimentary introductory offer. Call now to schedule your first lesson, call (410)772-7880, or fill out the online contact form. Couples and singles invited. Offer only good for new adults students and may not be combined with any other promotional offer.

9176 Red Branch Road, #H, Columbia, MD,
<http://www.dancecolumbia.com/index.php>

\$5 bucket of golf balls for Fairway Hill Golf Club's driving range

Warm up before you play Fairway Hills with a \$5 bucket of golf balls to use on their scenic driving range. Not a lengthy course, Fairway Hills is a fun challenge that allows for good scoring opportunities for advanced and beginning golfers alike.

5100 Columbia Road
www.columbiaassociation.com

FREE Spectator Soccer Event...Columbia 3v3 Summer Challenge

Come out and cheer for U8-U19 Boys and Girls, Open and Co-Ed Brackets at state-of-the-art Northrop Fields at Covenant Park in Ellicott City on June 20-21, 2009. This tournament will be a Regional Qualifying Event for the top three teams for the Kick It 3v3 Soccer Championships.

Northrop Fields at Covenant Park
4560 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042
<http://www.digitalsports.com/organization/id/21.aspx>

FREE Exploring Wellness: Acupuncture & Herbal Healing

On Thursday, July 16, 2009, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Tai Sophia, the premier graduate school of the healing arts hosts a complimentary educational evening workshop about acupuncture and herbal medicine. You will discover how the cycle of the seasons shows up in your body, mind, and spirit, and how you can work with the creative cycle to tend to yourself and others. Contact Clinical Services at 410-888-9048 ext. 6614 to RSVP.

7750 Montpelier Road, Laurel, MD 20723
<http://www.tai.edu/IntroPrograms.aspx>

FREE Spectator Event...AFLAC Iron Girl Columbia Triathlon

Girl power! Cheer the 2,000+ Irongirls (from pros to first-timers) as they swim, bike, run at Centennial Park on Sunday, August 23, 2009. Iron Girl's mission is to empower women toward a healthy lifestyle. Bring your girlfriends, daughters, mothers and grandmothers and make some noise! Shuttle service available from Sheraton Columbia Towncenter Hotel.

Centennial Park, 10000 MD Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042
www.tricolumbia.org

\$5 Boating Permits

Bring your own boat & life jacket and enjoy an afternoon on Howard County's lovely lake at Centennial Park! Daily self-serve permits, only \$5, can be obtained on site. Only class A boats are allowed, 16 feet or less in length, with electric motors. Rowboats, canoes, rafts with three separate air chambers, and sailboats under 14 feet are permitted.

Centennial Park, 10000 MD Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042
http://www.co.ho.md.us/RAP/RAP_HOCOParksCentennial.htm#anch6559

\$1 to use Rocky Gorge 4 Seasons Golf Fairway's putting green

Since 1965, Rocky Gorge 4 Seasons Golf Fairway has been satisfying the desires of golf enthusiasts of all ages. This 4 seasons golf fairway is open year-round. That's right, the budget friendly golf driving range is open all year—day or night, rain or shine—only \$1 to use the putting green!

U.S. Route 29 & Old Columbia Road, Laurel, MD
<http://www.rockygorgegolf.com/>

FREE “Femme” bike clinics and rides with Princeton Sports

Princeton Sports wants to connect women who love biking with social, recreational, competitive and cross-training opportunities. Never been riding before? That's ok too! They provide learning opportunities for women who are interested with monthly meetings held at Princeton Sports of Columbia. Femme will provide women with clinics on roadside/trailside repair, bike maintenance, and bike etiquette.

10730 Little Patuxent PKWY
<http://princetonports.com>

OUTDOORS

FREE Wonder Walks: What's the Buzz? Blooms, Bees & Bug Pollinators

Hear the original “birds & bees” story on a guided hike at the Howard County Conservancy, a 232 acre farm preserved for future generations. 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock. 410-465-8877, July 11, 10 a.m. www.hcconservancy.org

FREE Wonder Walks: All Kinds of BUGS!

A guided hike with field entymologist Richard Orr at the Howard County Conservancy, 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock. Great fun for adults and children! 410-465-8877, August 8th, 10 a.m. www.hcconservancy.org

Fiddlers & Fireflies at the Howard County Conservancy

As the fireflies begin to flicker in the tall grasses around Montjoy Barn, listen to one of the great performers of fiddle music, Steve Hickman, who has electrified audiences for close to thirty years. Kids will learn interesting facts about fireflies and are invited to make a firefly craft. Bring the family, or carpool with the neighbors – only \$10 per car (\$2.50 per person for a family of four!)

Thursday, July 16, 6 - 9 p.m.
10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock.
www.hcconservancy.org

Hike, Canoe, Tube, Bike: \$2.00 per person “in season” Patapsco Valley State Park

Hike the Grist Mill Trail – A 1.5 mile paved and accessible trail for the disabled along the river; walk across the Swinging Bridge – a 300 foot suspension walkway over the river; hike to Bloede's Dam – world's first internally housed hydroelectric dam. (Avalon Area)
410-461-5005

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovalley.html>

Canoeing in the Orange Grove/Avalon Area; 410-461-5005

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/outdooradventures/canoepatapsco2.html>

Tubing in the Park at the Orange Grove/Avalon area; 410-461-5005
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/outdooradventures/tubeavalon.html>

Mountain Bike along the Old Rangers Trail (Hollofield Area) 410-461-5005
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/outdooradventures/mtbikepat.html>

FARMS AND AGRICULTURE

FREE Drop in Gardening at the Howard County Conservancy

Work with Master Gardeners and other volunteers for Wednesday morning gardening
9 am – 12 noon April through October.
www.hcconservancy.org

Free Adopt a Garden at Whipps Garden Cemetery-Park

A great family or community-service project – Whipps Cemetery dates from 1855, and has been restored as a lovely public heritage garden-park filled with native plants, and maintained by the Master Gardeners of Howard County. Volunteers are always welcome to help maintain the park, or adopt small areas in the cemetery.
3651 St. John's Lane, just south of Frederick Rd., Ellicott City
410-465-6721

Howard County Fair: August 8 – 15

This annual rite of summer has something for everyone: 4-H displays and demonstrations, animals, home arts, agricultural judging, carnival rides, live music and entertainment, parades and much more.
\$5 for ages 10 and up; \$2 for seniors 62 and up (Tuesday, August 11 is FREE for seniors)
8 am – 11 pm daily
Information: 410-442-1022

Under \$5 Visit the New Pine Tree Maze at Clark's Elioak Farm

Children love to visit the petting farm, feeding and visiting the farm animals, and playing among the Enchanted Forest figures. **New this year:** pick up the Pine Tree Maze Guide and Activity Book, that has a question on every page and can only be answered by exploring the maze! Admission \$4.50; hayrides and pony rides only \$2. Mother Goose Story Time on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at no additional charge.
www.clarklandfarm.com
410-730-4049

THE ARTS

\$1 Summer Movie Camp

See great kids' movies for only \$1 at COLUMBIA 14 during AMC's SummerMovieCamp. Add a drink, popcorn and snack for only \$3 more!
10:00 a.m. every Wednesday through August 5.
Find details at www.amctheatres.com/smc/

FREE Lakefront Summer Festival

Enjoy FREE live performances and movie nights at the Columbia Association's Lakefront Summer Festival where family fun is served up all summer long on the shore of lovely Lake Kittamaquandi in downtown Columbia.

Find details at www.columbiaassociation.com

FREE Patapsco River Stacked Rock Sculptures

Visit Historic Ellicott City on any given day during the summer to ponder Teddy Betts's ever changing sculpture of stacked rocks in the Patapsco River. Evolving as the river flows and morphing with the currents Mr. Betts' on-going primitive art project evokes a high level of interest among spectators. Look for his installation, on any given summer day, on the north side of the Frederick Road bridge coming into town from Baltimore County.

FREE Sunset Serenades

Pack a picnic and watch the sun go down with live music playing in the background at beautiful Centennial Park during Howard County Recreations & Parks' summer Sunset Serenades. Great playground close-by for children.

Wednesdays at 7pm through August 19./ www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP

FREE Traveling Bands

Bring a blanket or lawn chair, have a picnic and enjoy the sounds of summer as Howard County Recreation & Parks' "Traveling Band Concert Series" visits parks around the county. PLUS Free ice cream provided by Edy's!

Various locations / Fridays at 7 pm through August 21 / www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP

FREE Howard County Arts Council's Open Mic Night

Hit the stage or take a seat for Howard County Arts Council's Open Mic Night on Wednesday July 22 at 6:30 pm. Performers can reserve stage time by calling 410-313-2787. Presented in conjunction with HCAC's "No Boundaries" art exhibit. Find details at www.hcac.org.

FREE Be Creative about summer reading

Everyone from babies to adults, can read for fun and earn prizes! Read or listen to books from pre-selected reading lists, or choose your own books, magazines, and newspapers. Just kick back, relax, and Be Creative about summer reading at Howard County Library branches! Find details under "Classes & Events" at www.hclibrary.org

FREE Art Walk through Historic Savage Mill

Enjoy an Art Walk through Historic Savage Mill to see original works in progress and view the current exhibits. You will find paintings, sculpture, stamp art, handmade cards, restoration, gilding and framing services. Wine and snacks will be served while original art is on view and in progress.

Every third Friday / 6-8 PM / Find details at www.savagemill.com

FREE Nature Photo Safari

Be inspired by nature at the Howard County Conservancy where artists and photographers are welcome to choose from a wide array of flora and fauna subject matter in endless summer colors.

Wednesday thru Saturdays from 9am to 3pm / Find details at www.hcconservancy.org.

FREE “Still Life,” an exhibition

Visit and observe “Still Life,” an exhibition of works by four area artists whose creative styles, while varying from classicism to digital photography, each demonstrates the opportunity for intense observation that still life affords. A student exhibition of still life works will be shown at the same time in the Art Department Gallery. A free, opening reception for both exhibits will be held on July 9 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Howard Community College's Rouse Company Foundation Gallery

July 9 through August 9, 2009, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. / Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For details visit www.howardcc.edu

FREE Gallery Receptions at The Howard County Arts Council

July 22, 2009, 6 – 9:00PM

Gallery I - *[trans] TEXTURE*, featuring works made of paper and pulp.

Gallery II - *No Boundaries*, featuring work by youth and adults with developmental disabilities, presented in partnership with Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks's Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services.

410-313-2787

<http://www.hocoarts.org>

DINING**\$5 Mini-tini's Jordan's Steakhouse's PRIME TIME Happy Hour**

Prime People, Jordan and Ivette have hand-picked the best. Working magic out of an open kitchen, they deliver prime cuts. Serious sides. And desserts to die for. Join them for Prime Time For Happy Hour, Sunday through Friday 4pm - 6:30pm, Mini-tini's \$5, “Basil Martini,” Cosmo, “Prickly Pear,” Wine varietals only \$5 a glass and glass bottled beer \$2.95. 8085 Main Street, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043, 410-461-9776

www.Jordanssteakhouse.com

FREE Wine Tastings at The Wine Bin

Sample fine wines any day of the week at The Wine Bin in Historic Ellicott City. Every Wednesday is Charity Wine Night, with 5% of sale proceeds going to a designated charity.

410-465-7804

www.winebinec.com

\$1 Beer Nite at Ellicott Mills Brewing Co.

Sunday and Monday, at the bar; plus half price appetizers.

8308 Main St., Ellicott City

410-313-8141

www.ellicottmillsbrewing.com

FREE Monthly Recipe from Donna's Café

To whet your appetite for “Cooking with Donna” classes, try the free monthly recipe offered on her website (in June – Michelle Obama's Birthday Cake!) At her classes, learn techniques for pulling together great, quick and healthy dinners, how to cook without recipes and create dishes with great flavor.

5850 Waterloo Rd. at Snowden River Parkway, Columbia

www.donnas.com

Half off Wine at The King's Contrivance

Enjoy half off any glass or bottle of wine from their extensive wine list; parties of 8 or less. This elegant 1890's mansion also has prix fixe hours at early seatings.

410-995-0500

www.thekingscontrivance.com

Half Price Specials at Alexandra's at Turf Valley Resort

Monday: Half price bottled wine, Tuesday: \$2.50 domestic bottles and \$3.50 import bottles; Half price Burger Night, Friday: Half price ribs

Sunday Jazz and Champagne Brunch: Kids under 3 free

www.turfvalleyresort.com

Half price wines by bottle on Wednesdays at Café de Paris|

Terra-cotta tile, wood floors, warm colors, fine linens, and French memorabilia complete the ambience at Café de Paris .Happy Hour in the BAR every night from 5-7 pm, \$3

Domestics, \$4 Imports, \$5 Glasses of Wine and \$6 House Martinis, 1/2 Price Wines by the Bottle every WEDNESDAY 8808 Centre Park Dr. Columbia, Maryland, 410.997.3904

www.CafedeParisColumbia.com

HERITAGE**FREE Civil War Trails Experience**

Retrace the footsteps of soldiers, both blue and grey, during the Civil War at nine sites across Howard County where you'll find interpretive markers containing both military and anecdotal accounts of the two opposing armies along scenic and historic roads. Check out an award winning documentary on the Civil War trails on Tourism's "virtual tours" area of the website. Pick-up your Civil War trails map and guide at the Howard County Welcome Center, open 7 days a week in Historic Ellicott City.

8267 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-1900, www.VisitHowardCounty.com

FREE History Hike, Avalon Area – Patapsco Valley State Park

Register in advance. Learn the history of Orange Grove, the Swinging Bridge, the B & O Railroad & Bloede Dam. 410-750-0674; July 23rd www.dnr.state.md.us

FREE Historical Tours of the Shrine of St. Anthony

Historical tours of the Manor House and Shrine at 1:30pm on the last Sunday of each month.

12290 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

410-531-2800

www.shrineofstanthony.org

FREE Ellicott City Restoration Foundation Photo Contest Display

Browse through the Ellicott City Restoration Foundation's annual photo contest entries displayed at the Howard County Historical Society Museum through August 4, 2009.

Donations to the Howard County Historical Society accepted.

www.hchsm.org

www.ecrestoration.org

\$5 and under B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station

Completed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1830, the Ellicott City Station is the oldest surviving railroad station in America. Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children \$3, Children under 2 free, members free.

2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043

410-461-1945

www.ecborail.org

FREE Ellicott City Historic District Self Guided Walking Tour

A self guided walking tour of 28 historic sites, including houses of worship, homes, and museums. Copies available at the Howard County Tourism Visitor Information Center.

8267 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043

410-313-1900

www.VisitHowardCounty.com

FREE Historic Savage Mill

Browse a 19th century mill adaptively restored for a unique shopping and dining experience. Look for mill history display panels located throughout the mill. National Historic Landmark. Don't miss the Ired Bollman Truss Bridge, an engineering marvel next to the Mill.

8600 Foundry Street, Savage, MD

410-792-2820, 800-788-MILL

www.savagemill.com

Under \$5 Patapsco Valley State Park's Avalon Visitor Center

The Avalon Visitor Center houses exhibits spanning over [300 years of history](#) along the Patapsco River. Housed in a 19th century stone dwelling in the Avalon Area, the center includes a re-creation of a 1930's forest warden's office. Other historic areas of interest include Elkridge Landing, the Thomas Viaduct, Old Gun Road Stone Arch Bridge, the Swinging Bridge, Bloede Dam, Union Dam and Daniels Dam.

8020 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21043

(410)461-5005

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/patapscohistory.html>

FAMILY

FREE All Aboard Summer Reading Program

June 1, 2009 - August 28, 2009

A magical experience that will take kids and parents on a trip teaching about people and places! Participate in "I've Been Readin' on the Railroad" Summer Reading Program at the B & O Railroad Museum and the Ellicott City Station and earn a free book and a chance to win an engineer's outfit.

410-752-2490

www.borail.org/special-events.shtml

FREE Family Film Night at the Howard County Library, Glenwood Branch:

Celebrate Harry Potter! Friends of Howard County Library present Harry Potter Extravaganza. Refreshments are provided. Registration required

June 6: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

June 13: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

June 20: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

June 27: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

July 11: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

410-313-5579

www.hclibrary.org

FREE Columbia International Day

July 18, 2009

Enjoy the festivities celebrating the cultural and ethnic diversity that distinguishes Columbia. Enjoy live music and dance performances throughout the day representing a variety of cultures, international food and crafts vendors, children's activities, strolling costumed characters and performers, and the annual decorated umbrella exhibition.

410-715-3161

<http://www.columbiacalendar.org>

FREE kids, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company presents Twelfth Night

Through July 19, 2009

Enjoy outdoor theatre at its best in the picturesque ruins of the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park. Children under 18 are admitted free to Friday and Sunday performances. There must be at least one paying adult for every two children. Picnic baskets welcome!

410-313-8874

www.chesapeakeshakespeare.com

FREE 4th of July Festival

July 4, 5-10pm / Rain Date July 5

Bring a blanket or chair and a picnic supper and enjoy live bands, children's entertainment, and fireworks choreographed to patriotic music.

At Columbia Lakefront.

410-313-4700

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov>

FREE Annual Cutting of the Wheat

July 11, 2009

Join the Living Farm Heritage Museum as they cut the wheat that was planted last fall. Demonstrations on Cutting, Threshing, and Baling. Horse Pulls, Wagon Rides, Blue Grass Music, Tractors. Food concession will be present. Bring family and friends. 410-489-489-2345

<http://www.farmheritage.org>

FREE Visit the Restored Hodgepodge Lodge at the Howard County Conservancy

The beloved MPT children's program of the 1970's introduced children to nature and wildlife. The Hodgepodge cabin has been renovated and relocated to the Conservancy grounds in a place that beckons hiking and outdoor exploration. Children's activities located in the cabin. Open daily.

10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock.

www.hcconservancy.org

\$5 Admission to Native American Pow Wow

(\$5 under 13; \$6 ages 13 and up)

Enjoy this up close opportunity to see Native American dancing and singing; craft demonstrations, storytelling, and food preparation.

Saturday, July 11: 11 am - 7 pm; Sunday, July 12: 11am - 6 pm
Rain or shine; Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Rd., West Friendship

FREE Howard County General Hospital Health Fair

July 11, 2009

Howard County General Hospital: A Member of Johns Hopkins Medicine is celebrating the opening of the new Patient Pavilion with a FREE Community Health Fair. 9am to 1pm, rain or shine.

www.hcgh.org

FREE Maryland Tourism & Travel Show

August 28-30, 2009

America in Miniature! There's something for everyone at the Maryland Tourism & Travel Show. Learn about Maryland's many attractions, hotels, restaurants, campgrounds, sport fishing, fishing charters, golf courses, cruise & tour companies, wineries and more! At Arundel Mills. 410- 540-5100, www.simon.com

Okay, that's over 50 ways to enjoy Howard County's diverse range of things to see and do for free, half price or under \$5. Now, the only thing missing is what to do with all that extra cash. One need not worry; free activities can surely work up an appetite that can be easily satisfied at one of Howard County's many delightful dining choices. It is also entirely possible that a full day's activity will require spa services and a relaxing overnight stay at a local bed-and-breakfast or full-service hotel. If that's not enough, take in a show at one of many indoor and outdoor venues, and throw in some shopping at one of Howard County's popular shopping destinations. For more information go to Howard County Tourism & Promotion's website www.VisitHowardCounty.com, check out our calendar of events updated daily, call us or stop by...happy and safe travels!

Howard County Maryland Welcome Center

8267 Main Street, Historic Ellicott City, MD 21042, 1-800-288-8747

TOURISM...Having FUN is Serious Business!

Howard County Tourism & Promotion, Inc., a non-profit, membership-based organization is recognized and funded in part by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland. Howard County Tourism & Promotion's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique sites, services, products and people like creating *Sensational Summer Savings: FREE, 50% off or under \$5 budget friendly ways to Staycation in Howard County, Maryland..* For more information contact Howard County Tourism & Promotion or check out our website www.VisitHowardCounty.com.

Below are the most recent and available statistics from the Maryland Office of Tourism Development for HOWARD COUNTY'S dynamic Tourism Industry:

- **Tourism generated \$528.72 million in expenditures from domestic visitors**
- **The tourism industry generated 8,000 jobs**
- **Tourism generated \$16.1 million in County tax receipts**

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